

SENATE RESOLUTION 66

By Person, Curtis

A RESOLUTION relative to serious and persistent mental illness.

WHEREAS, mental illness is a serious illness that affects thousands of Tennessee's citizens, rendering them disabled and unable to enjoy a normal lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, institutionalization or incarceration is sometimes the result of inappropriate treatment for mental illness; and

WHEREAS, institutionalization or incarceration may cost the state of Tennessee far more than state-of-the-art medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, serious mental illness is treatable in most instances, with dramatic results often being attained through appropriate treatment and service; and

WHEREAS, appropriate treatment with medication can, in most cases, restore people with mental illness to normal life functioning; and

WHEREAS, treatment with medication is a cost-effective alternative to institutionalization or incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the human suffering of people with mental illness can be dramatically alleviated, yet not measured in financial terms; and

WHEREAS, people with mental illness are among the most vulnerable citizens in Tennessee's population; and

WHEREAS, effective treatment with medication for people with mental illness is preferable and cost effective; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that people with serious and persistent mental illness are very vulnerable persons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Tennessee General Assembly requests that the Medicaid program recognize that mental illness may be successfully treated by medication therapies in many instances.